

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02027 181922Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----046779 181923Z /44
O 181922Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4434

S E C R E T CAIRO 02027

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, US
SUBJECT: ENCOURAGEMENT OF SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 11011

1. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT COURSE OF ACTION U.S. ADOPTS IN HORN DEPENDS ON IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO IT IN GLOBAL CONTEXT. HOWEVER, SEEN FROM CAIRO, SINE QUA NON FOR MEANINGFUL (AND, ULTIMATELY, SUCCESSFUL) ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE SOMALI RENUNCIATION OF CLAIM TO OGADEN AS PART OF SOMALIA, WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD HAVE TO BE RENUNCIATION OF CLAIM TO GREATER SOMALIA. DESPITE CONSTANT EGYPTIAN PRESSURES ON U.S. TO SUPPORT SOMALIS, BELIEVE THAT MAXIMUM WE SHOULD SUPPORT UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS IS AUTONOMY FOR OGADEN REGION WITHIN ETHIOPIA (WITH PERHAPS SOME CULTURAL LINKS WITH SOMALIA). GIVEN OFT-STATED KENYAN CONCERNS OVER SOMALI IRREDENTISM AND RECENT TENSIONS IN DJIBOUTI, IN LARGE PART DUE TO SOMALI INTERFERENCE, WE SEE NO WAY SHORT OF SOMALI RENUNCIATION OF GREATER SOMALIA TO REESTABLISHMENT DEGREE OF STABILITY TO HORN REGION.

2. HOW CAN WE MAKE SUCH A SUDDEN AND SEEMINGLY HUMILIATING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 02027 181922Z

TING REVERSAL PALATABLE TO SOMALIA? BELIEVE BEST COURSE WOULD BE THREE-PRONGED APPROACH: (A) CONVENING OF HIGH-POWERED, ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING MAJOR WESTERN POWERS, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, EGYPT, AND PROBABLY SOVIET UNION TO NEGOTIATE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR OGADEN WITHIN ETHIOPIA AS WELL AS, POSSIBLY, SIMILAR INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ERITREA; (B) TAKING A VERY TOUGH

LINE WITH SOVIETS, INCLUDING IMMEDIATE CRACK-DOWN ON CUBA FOR RENEGING ON PLEDGE TO REDUCE ACTIVITY IN AFRICA, AND (C) PROMISING ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOMALIA SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH SOMALI ANNOUNCEMENT OF RENUNCIATION OF CLAIMS IN OGADEN AND DELIVERY OF SUCH ARMS CONTINGENT UPON FINAL WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI TROOPS FROM REGION AND SUCCESS IN AUTONOMY TALKS.

3. IN REGARD TO ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE, WE SEE NO PROSPECT OF ETHIOPIA UNDER MENGISTU, OR ANY OTHER LEADER, ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOMALIA WHILE SOMALI TROOPS OCCUPYING OGADEN, AND CONFERENCE, WHICH WOULD CARRY FORCE OF MAJOR WORLD POWERS, PERHAPS UNDER SECURITY COUNCIL AUSPICES, MIGHT INDUCE SOMALIA TO DO THE MINIMUM, WITH FIG LEAF THAT ARRANGEMENTS TO BE GUARANTEED BY WORLD COMMUNITY.

4. CONCERNING CRACK DOWN ON CUBA, IT COULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT IMPROVEMENT OF U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS DURING 1977 WAS INITIALLY MADE CONTINGENT UPON REDUCTION OF CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND THIS HAS DEFINITELY NOT TAKEN PLACE. WOULD EVEN RECOMMEND CLOSING DOWN OF RESPECTIVE INTERESTS SECTIONS AND UNILATERAL ABROGATION OF ALL OTHER MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. BELIEVE IT ALSO LIKELY THAT EGYPT, AND ALSO DOUBTLESS SOMALIA AND SAUDI ARABIA, WILL ASK US TO TAKE SPECIFIC HARD-LINE MEASURES AGAINST SOVIETS, SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 02027 181922Z

IF WE INTENT ON SECURING SOMALI RENUNCIATION OF CLAIMS IN OGADEN.

5. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OAU MEDIATION EFFORT HOLDS OUT MUCH PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS. EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO02027
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780027-0495
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780151/aaaabraf.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b5b8cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 11011
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3757636
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENCOURAGEMENT OF SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b5b8cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014